



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Consumer
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Reply to SP-96-06
Attn. of: CACFP-454

January 4, 1996

Subject: Persons Affected by Federal Shutdown

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE, Colorado HS,
(Child Nutrition Programs) Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED, Missouri DH,
Montana OPI, Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED,
Nebraska SS, North Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming ED, Wyoming DHSS

We have received inquiries about eligibility of persons affected by the partial Federal shutdown for free or reduced price school meals. While the current situation is unusual, it essentially represents a temporary reduction in income and persons experiencing these reductions should be treated in accordance with our traditional policy. (See pages 19 and 20 of Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual - FNS-274.) Therefore, schools should consider applications from these households on the basis of their current rate of income, rather than on regular annual income. We wish to emphasize that all other current income available to the household must be considered in making eligibility determinations. In the event that these households are certified for food stamps or Aid for Dependent Children, they are categorically eligible for free school meals.

Households which qualify for free or reduced price meals based on their current reduced income should receive temporary approval. The exact length of the certification is left to the judgement of the determining official, but we suggest that officials allow sufficient time for any delays in receiving full salaries after the end of the shutdown. In general, these approvals should not exceed 45 days unless otherwise stipulated by the State Agency.

It should also be noted that this policy applies to all persons directly affected by the shutdown, including furloughed Federal employees as well as contract workers and other employees that may be temporarily unemployed due to the Federal shutdown. This policy also applies to the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Call this office if there are any questions.

Ann C. Degroat
for ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Child Nutrition Programs